

THE SNARES OF THE DEVIL

Paul has been in a heavy discussion with Timothy regarding pastoral leaders dealing with a growing problem of false teachings within the ranks of the grace church (Pastoral Epistles; 2 Tim.2:14-26).

This false teaching is spreading like gangrene (2 Tim.2:17-18). It has shipwrecked the faith of some (1 Tim.1:19-20). It was upsetting entire families (Titus 1:10-11).

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- Command (2 Tim.2:23) paraiteomai (p.m.impv.2ps) [refuse]
- Correct (2 Tim.2:24-25) paideuo (p.a.ptc)
- Capture (2 Tim.2:26) zogreo (perf.p.ptc) [snare] (pagis)

Paul's illustration of a snare was to show Satan's strategy to captive believers to do his will.

- "Like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it could cost him his life." (Prov.7:23)

This lesson will study six Snares of the Devil designed to capture believers to do his will.

1. The conceit snare is designed to trap inexperienced and ego driven gifted communicators.

"And not a new convert (neophutos) [inexperienced; neophyte], lest he become **conceited** (tuphoo / a.p.ptc.nsm) and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil (tou diabolos)." (1 Tim.3:7)

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, **he is conceited** and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain." (1 Tim.6:3-4)

2. The reproach snare is designed to trap the traveling gifted communicators such evangelists and missionaries.

"And he must have a good reputation (kalos marturia) with those outside the church, so that he may not fall (empipto / a.a.subj) into **reproach** (oneidismos) and the snare of the devil." (1 Tim.3:7)

Accountability in the ministry is inward, outward, and upward. Reproach should come from the grace ministry of Jesus Christ – "If you **are reviled** for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." (1 Pet.4:14)

3. The materialism lust snare is designed to trap the believer that become preoccupied with money.

"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For **the love of money** is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang."
(1 Tim.6:9-10, 17-19)

"You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt.6:24)

4. **The false doctrines snare is designed to capture believers to do the will of the devil.**

“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, **the evil one comes and snatches away** what has been sown into his heart. This is the one whom seed was sown beside the road.” (Matt.13:19)

“But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds should be led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor.11:3, 13-15; 1 Tim.1:19-20)

“With gentleness **correcting those who are in opposition**, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” (2 Tim.2:26)

5. **The stumbling block snare is designed to trap the believer by the entrapment of other believers.**

“From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priest and scribes, and be killed and raised up on the third day. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘god forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You. But He turned to him and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interest, but man’s.’” (Matt.16:21-23)

You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.” (2 Tim.1:15)

- **Once in the devil’s snare, how does the believer get out of it?**

6 **The trapped believer must come to senses and trust God to escape from the snare of the devil (James 4:8; 1 Pet.5:8-9).**

“If perhaps (mepote) [compound contingency particle] **God may grant** (didomi / a.a.opt.3ps) them repentance (metanoia) leading to the knowledge (epignosis) of the truth, and **they must come to their senses and escape (ananepho / a.a.subj 3pl) [out of a drunken stupor]** from the snare of the devil, having been held captive to do his will.” (2 Tim.2:25-26)

The entrapped believer must come to his sense and escape. This requires repentance (change of the mind) **(Luke 15:13-20) [younger son caught in snare of prodigality]**.

Repentance requires acknowledging or confessing sin (1 John 1:9; Gal.5:16-17).

Repentance also requires putting off OMCD thinking and putting on NMDV thinking (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed that your faith may not fail; and you, **when once you have turned again (epistrepho/ to turn oneself around)**, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)

Paul encourages us to join Timothy in the **SNARE PATROL**. It rescues believers caught in the Snare of the Devil. To be a member of the Snare Patrol, we must not be quarrelsome, or resentful, but kind and able to teach and gently instruct them towards repentance and truth (2 Tim.2:23-26).